per month for SKO dealerships and their average monthly PDS SKO allocation per dealer during the year 2004-05 works out to be higher than this norm. Further, with a view to improving viability of SKO dealers, they have been allowed to market non-PDS kerosene to small consumers, LDO to small customers requiring LDO for agriculture pump sets/small-scale industries, etc. and lubricating oil.

(c) The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) have been commissioned to undertake the first-ever study of kerosene demand in the country. Further action will be taken after the NCAER report has been received and studied. A pilot project has also been approved for strengthening the distribution network of PDS kerosene with a view to ensuring that SKO is made available to the targeted consumers and is not diverted for adulteration.

(d) As of now, there is no such proposal with the Government.

LPG distributions in district headquarters

†3509. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) the names of the district headquarters of various States in the country wherein agency for LPG distribution has not been authorised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when, it is proposed to authorise any agency in such district headquarters; and

(d) the details of the action being taken for the same?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are not operating LPG distributorships at 16 district headquarters in various States. The details of these locations are given in the Statement. *(See below)*

(b) to (d) LPG distributorships are set up by OMCs in accordance with their commercial considerations. The commissioning of LPG distributorships depends upon various factors such as identification of viable locations, release of advertisements, conducting interviews, ability of the candidate to secure land for godown, showroom etc.

†Ortginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

OMCs have planned to set up LPG distributorships at all the locations indicated in the Annexe except for two locations *i.e.* Morgon in Sikkim and Sindhudrug Nagari in Maharashtra, where independent LPG distributorships are not viable and LPG requirement of the customers of these locations are met by nearby distributors. In the case of Sindhudurg, it may be noted that there is a distributorship at Kudal, 15 KM distant, which serves the 600 customers in Sindhudurg Nagari.

Statement

The Names of District Headquarters in various States/UTs, where LPG Distributorships of OMC are not Operating.

Sl. No	States/UTs	District	District Headquarter town
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang Valley	Anni
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Kururg Kumey	Koloriang
3.	Assam	Chidi Chirag	Kajakjaon
4.	Bihar	Seohar	Seohar
5.	Bihar	Supaul	Supaul
6.	Chhattisgarh	Jashpur	Jashpumagar
7.	Jharkhand	Jamtara	Jamtara
8.	Nagaland	Longiang	Longleng
9.	Maharashtra	Sindhudurg	Sindhudurg Nagari
10.	Nagaland	Peren	Paren
11.	Nagaland	Kiphere	Kiphere
12.	Orissa	Naupara	Naupara
13.	Stkkim	South Sikkim	Narachi
14.	Sikkim	West Sikkim	Geizing
15.	Sikkim Union Territories	North Sikkim	Morgon
16.	Andaman & Nicobar	Nicobar	Car Nicobar